Fact Sheet

ICE JAM FLOODING ASSISTANCE

PROBLEM

Flooding caused by ice jams causes damages totaling millions of dollars to towns and cities, bridges, levees, and other structures.

SOLUTION

At the request of and in cooperation with New England Division personnel, research engineers from CRREL have visited numerous ice jam sites in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont (especially along the Connecticut River) and have provided pertinent technical advice on ice jam flooding control methods to managers of affected towns and to hydropower dam operators.

RESULTS

Connecticut River, New Hampshire

Saturday, 20 January: A telephone call from Steve Andon, CENED Emergency Operations, disclosed that a Maine railroad company operating railroad tracks along the upper Connecticut River was concerned for the safety of a trestle bridge south of North Stratford, New Hampshire, in anticipation of a reported ice jam release at Colebrook, New Hampshire. Kate White, CRREL Research Hydraulic Engineer, PE, was asked to survey ice conditions along the river between Piermont and the Canadian border. Ms. White also surveyed ice conditions in the Connecticut River between Hanover, New Hampshire, and Woodsville, New Hampshire, and reported conditions back to Emergency Operations.

Connecticut River. Vermont

Sunday, 21 January: A telephone call from Ruth Kitowicz, CENED Emergency Operations, reported ice jams at the confluence of the West River and Connecticut River in Brattleboro, Vermont, and at the Bellows Falls, Vermont, Hydropower Dam. Dr. Jim Lever, CRREL Mechanical Engineer, was sent to observe conditions and reported back to Emergency Operations.

Tunbridge, Vermont

Monday, 22 January: Todd Poole, Fire Chief of Tunbridge, Vermont, called to report ice jams in the First Branch of the White River between Tunbridge and South Royalton, and requested technical advice on possible mitigation measures. Jon Zufelt, CRREL Hydraulic Engineer, went to observe conditions and provided advice.

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